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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 09 KABUL 1069

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR USDAO;
DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAB, MS. MILLIKAN; THE HAGUE FOR
A-DAM AND R-DAM

E.O. 12356: DECL 6/22/93

TAGS: ASEC, MOPS, MCAP, PHUM, PINR, PINS, PROP, SREF, UR, AF
SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT JUNE 15 - JUNE 21, 1987

REF: KABUL 1018

1. (C- ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MAY BE BRIEFED TO JOURNALISTS
EXCEPT WHERE OTHERWISE NOTED. (NOTE TO BRIEFERS IN ISLAMABAD,
PESHAWAR AND NEW DELHI: YOU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER CONCENTRATING
ON SUMMARIES AND SELECTED EXCERPTS FROM PARAS 4 AND 5.)

3. SUMMARY:

(A) (TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS:) FIGHTING IN AND AROUND KANDAHARA
CONTINUED INTO ITS FOURTH WEEK WITH HEAVY SOVIET/DRA, MUJAHIDIN
AND CIVILIAN CASUALTIES. KANDAHAR IS VIRTUALLY UNDER SIEGE
WITH SERIOUS FOOD SHORTAGES REPORTED. SOVIET FORCES HAVE
RESORTED TO HIGH-ALTITUDE BOMBING AND NIGHT AIR ATTACKS,
POSSIBLY EMPLOYING SPECIAL EQUIPMENT TO IMPROVE ACCURACY. THE
HIGH LOSSES RESULTING FROM COMBAT CASUALTIES AND DESERTIONS IN
THE KANDAHAR FIGHTING APPEARS TO BE POSING SEVERE MANPOWER
PROBLEMS FOR THE REGIME WHICH NOW IS PUTTING UNTRAINED YOUTHS
AND POLICE UNITS INTO BATTLE. NAJIB NOTED THAT 92 PERCENT OF
RECENT MILITARY INDUCTEES ARE FROM KABUL, SUGGESTING THE
CAPITAL IS THE ONLY MANPOWER POOL LEFT UNDER FIRM REGIME CONTROL.
A FIREFIGHT ON A RIDGE ABOVE KHAIR KHANA, CONTINUED SHELLING
OF PAGHMAN AND FIGHTING ON THE SOUTHERN OUTSKIRTS OF KABUL
SUGGEST THE WAR IS AGAIN EDGING CLOSER TO THE CAPITAL. MUJAHIDIN
APPEAR TO HAVE DOWNED AN AN-26 NEAR MAZAR-I-SHARIF. FIGHTING
IS REPORTED IN GHAZNI, WARDAK AND PARWAN. THE SALANG ROAD
FIGHTING NOTED IN THE PAST TWO SITREPS APPEARS TO HAVE TAPERED
OFF WITH ONLY ONE CLASH, AT JABAL US SARAJ, REPORTED. SOVIET
MEDIA HAVE AGAIN INSISTED THAT THE PDPA WILL REMAIN "THE CHIEF
MOBILIZING AND DIRECTING FORCE IN THE GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL
UNITY, EVEN AFTER IT BECOMES A COALITION."

(B) (NOT TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS:) ONE OF THE FIVE FORMER
MINISTERS NOW SERVING THE REGIME REPORTEDLY RECENTLY MET
WITH THE FORMER KING AND WAS TOLD THAT ZAHIR SHAH WOULD NOT
PARTICIPATE IN "NATIONAL RECONCILIATION" AND WOULD NOT ENGAGE
IN A DIALOGUE WITH THE DRA. NEW BALUCHI TRIBESMEN HAVE BEEN
SEEN IN KABUL AND A NEW BALUCHI HOSTEL HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN
A "KHAD" HOUSE. THERE IS SPECULATION THAT THEY MAY BE FROM IRAN.
ACCORDING TO AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT SOVIET FORCES MAY HAVE USED
CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN THE RECENT INTENSE FIGHTING IN PAKTIA.
RELIABLE SOURCES ALSO CLAIM THAT MANY OF THE WOUNDED FROM THE

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FIGHTING HAVE SUFFERED SEVERE, "NAPALM-LIKE" BURNS. END SUMMARY.

3. KABUL PYROTECHNICS AND SECURITY:

MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE KABUL AREA DURING THE WEEK
WAS AT MODERATE LEVELS, HIGHLIGHTED BY CONFIRMED INCOMING
ROCKETS, PERIODIC AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE, AND A PROTRACTED FIRE-
FIGHT ON A RIDGE ABOVE KHAIR KHANA. AS REPORTED EARLIER,
SOVIET PERSONNEL AND PDPA CADRE ARE MOVING INTO APARTMENT BLOCKS
IN THE MICRORAYON PREVIOUSLY OCCUPIED BY NON-PARTY AFGHANS
WHO HAVE BEEN EVICTED. THE MOVE MAY INDICATE IN PART SOVIET
DESIRE TO RELOCATE SOVIET PERSONNEL OUT OF THE DARULAMAN
AREA IN ADVANCE OF ANTICIPATED HEAVY ROCKETING OF THAT DISTRICT
OF THE CITY THIS SUMMER.

-- JUNE 14: A DIPLOMAT REPORTED AN EXPLOSION, POSSIBLY CAUSED
BY INCOMING ORDNANCE, AT 1855. OVERNIGHT, DIPLOMATS HEARD
INTERMITTENT OUTGOING ARTILLERY.

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RHC6SRB/COMUSARCENT FT MCPHERSON GA//AFRD-DSO//

RHHMBRA/CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI

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RUFDAAA/CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

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C I F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 09 KABUL 1069

-- JUNE 15: DURING THE MORNING SOVIET UNITS CONDUCTED TRAINING FIRE NORTH OF THE CITY. ALSO DURING THE MORNING, ACCORDING TO AN AFGHAN SOURCE, AUTHORITIES DISCOVERED THREE BOMBS AT A SCHOOL IN THE SHERPUR AREA. AT APPROXIMATELY NOON, IN AN APPARENTLY UNRELATED INCIDENT, DIPLOMATS OBSERVED SCHOOL CHILDREN (APPROXIMATELY 6-12 YEARS) BEING FRISKED BEFORE ENTERING SCHOOL IN KHAIR KHANA DISTRICT. A FIRE OF UNDETERMINED ORIGINS DESTROYED MANY SHOPS IN THE "BRESHEV BAZAAR" IN THE CITY. DIPLOMATS REPORT AN EXPLOSION IN THE NORTH OF THE CITY AT 1715 AND APPROXIMATELY FIVE MINUTES OF SMALL ARMS FIRE NEAR THE PRIME MINISTER'S COMPOUND AT 2210.

-- JUNE 16: DIPLOMATS HEARD EXPLOSIONS IN KHAIR KHANA AT 1735 AND 1750.

-- JUNE 17: UNEXPLAINED EXPLOSIONS OCCURRED IN THE CITY AT 1318, 1321 AND 1356. AT 2015, WHAT SOUNDED LIKE A ROCKET PASSED OVER THE U.S. EMBASSY BUT WAS NOT HEARD TO IMPACT. ROCKETS STRUCK THE SOUTH SIDE OF KHO-I-ASMAI IN THE CENTER OF KABUL AT 2300.

-- JUNE 18: AT 0230 AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE WOKE DIPLOMATS IN SHARE NAU. AT 0615 TWO PARACHUTE CLUSTER FLARES WERE OBSERVED FROM PERIMETER ROAD IN THE DIRECTION OF THE KABUL GORGE. (COMMENT: OBSERVERS HAVE NOT NOTED PARACHUTE FLARES IN THE KABUL AREA FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. END COMMENT.) BEGINNING AT 0930 AND CONTINUING THROUGH MOST OF THE MORNING ARTILLERY BASED NORTH OF THE CITY FIRED INTERMITTENTLY.

-- JUNE 19: AT 1030, ARTILLERY NORTH OF THE CITY RESUMED INTERMITTENT FIRE WHICH CONTINUED THROUGH MUCH OF THE DAY.

-- JUNE 20: BETWEEN 1600 AND 1630 DIPLOMATS HEARD OUTGOING ARTILLERY IN THE DIRECTION OF PAGHMAN (TO THE WEST). DIPLOMATS ALSO REPORT OUTGOING ARTILLERY TO THE NORTHWEST.

-- JUNE 21: BETWEEN 2110 AND 2135 SOVIET FORCES FIRED MORTARS AND HEAVY MACHINE GUNS INTO THE SOUTH FACE OF THE RIDGE WHICH BOUNDS KHAIR KHANA ON THE NORTH. FLARES ILLUMINATED THE AREA WHICH WAS BELOW THE RIDGE LINE, SEVERAL HUNDRED METERS ABOVE LARGE SOVIET BASE.

MILITARY MOVEMENT IN THE KABUL AREA:

A) (AIR:) AIR ACTIVITY WAS AT MODERATE LEVELS DURING THE WEEK WITH FREQUENT NIGHT AIR ACTIVITY. THERE ARE 2 UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF AIRCRAFT CRASHES AT KABUL AIRPORT. IL-76 TRAFFIC INTO KABUL WAS DOWN FROM 23 THE PREVIOUS WEEK TO 17.

-- JUNE 25: TWO IL-76'S ARRIVED THEN DEPARTED. A USUALLY RELIABLE AFGHAN REPORTS A MILITARY AIRCRAFT CRASHED NEAR KA71 840945. REPORTEDLY, A NUMBER OF PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN THE

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-- JUNE 16: THREE IL-76'S ARRIVED THEN DEPARTED.

-- JUNE 17: TWO IL-76'S ARRIVED THEN DEPARTED.

-- JUNE 18: TWO IL-76'S ARRIVED THEN DEPARTED.

-- JUNE 19: ONE IL-76 ARRIVED THEN DEPARTED. DURING THE EARLY HOURS OF THE MORNING DIPLOMATS NOTED HEAVY AIR ACTIVITY. AT 0700 AN SU-25 EITHER TOOK OFF FROM OR MADE A TOUCH-AND-GO AT KABUL AIRPORT AND THEN HEADED TO THE NORTHEAST. AT 0810 DIPLOMATS OBSERVED A LARGE COLUMN OF DENSE GREY SMOKE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE LANDING OF AN MI-24 ESCORTED IL-76. AN EXPLOSION ACCOMPANIED THE SMOKE. OBSERVERS CONCLUDED THAT A HELICOPTER POSSIBLY MAY HAVE CRASHED AT THE NORTHWEST SIDE OF THE AIRPORT.

-- JUNE 20: THREE IL-76'S ARRIVED THEN DEPARTED.

-- JUNE 21: THREE IL-76'S ARRIVED THEN DEPARTED. MI-6'S HEADED SOUTHWEST FROM KABUL AIRPORT AT 0030.

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C F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 09 KAPUL 1069

(B VEHICULAR MOVEMENT:) CONVOY ACTIVITY DURING THE WEEK WAS MODERATE-TO-HEAVY INCLUDING THE JUNE 15 RETURN OF HUNDREDS OF SOVIET ARMORED VEHICLES AND TRUCKS TO THE CITY VIA THE LOGAR ROAD. (COMMENT: THE VEHICLES APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN THOSE ENGAGED IN THE INTENSE FIGHTING IN PAKTIA IN RECENT WEEKS, REFTEL).

-- JUNE 13: AT 1600, 12 SOVIET-CREWED TANK TRANSPORTERS MOVED INTO KABUL FROM THE WEST CARRYING A TOTAL OF 15 BADLY DAMAGED BTR'S.

-- JUNE 14: AT 1530, MORE THAN 60 SOVIET FUEL TANKERS HEADED EAST ON PERIMETER ROAD FROM THE UNDERGROUND FUEL STORAGE FACILITY ON PERIMETER ROAD. BTR-70'S AND ZU-23 GUN TRUCKS PROVIDED ESCORT. AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME TIME A DRA COLUMN CONTAINING BTR-152'S, GAZ 66 AND ZIL-131 TRUCKS MOVED WEST FROM THE JUNCTION OF SALANG AND PERIMETER ROADS. ALSO DURING THE AFTERNOON FIVE 122 MM SELF-PROPELLED GUNS MOVED INTO KHAIR KHANA FROM THE WEST.

-- JUNE 15: AT 0400, A SMALL SOVIET ARMORED COLUMN MOVED TOWARD LOGAR ROAD ON BLUE MOSQUE STREET. AT 0600, ACCORDING TO AN AFGHAN SOURCE, A SOVIET ARMORED COLUMN LEFT THE DARULAMAN BASE AREA FOR SORUZI. IT RETURNED AT 2100. AT 0630, OVER 25 SOVIET ARMORED VEHICLES AND ZU-23 GUN TRUCKS HEADED TOWARD LOGAR ROAD VIA BLUE MOSQUE STREET. AT 1000, A SOVIET COLUMN THAT INCLUDED APPROXIMATELY 30 TANKS, PLUS 40 TRUCKS AND ASSORTED ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS (MANY WITH DOGS ABOARD) HEADED EAST ON JALALABAD ROAD. DURING THE AFTERNOON, SEVERAL HUNDRED SOVIET ARMORED VEHICLES AND TRUCKS ARRIVED IN KABUL ON THE LOGAR ROAD. MANY OF THE INCOMING VEHICLES WITH DAMAGE TO TRACKS AND SUPERSTRUCTURE WERE TOWED OR CARRIED ON MAZ-537 TANK HAULERS. THREE LONG SEGMENTS OF ANOTHER SOVIET ARMORED COLUMN ARRIVED AFTER 2000 HOURS ON THE LOGAR ROAD. THE COLUMN INCLUDED BM-21 MULTIPLE ROCKET LAUNCHERS, TOWED D-30'S, BMP'S, AND ASSORTED BTR'S.

-- JUNE 16: DIPLOMATS REPORT EXTENSIVE TRACKED VEHICLE MOVEMENT THROUGH THE CITY, OVERNIGHT. AN ARMOR-ESCORTED SOVIET FUEL CONVOY MOVED WEST ON PERIMETER ROAD AT 1700.

-- JUNE 17: AT 0450, A CONVOY OF 73 SOVIET BMP'S, BTR'S, SU-23 GUN TRUCKS AND BM-21 MULTIPLE ROCKET LAUNCHERS HEADED TOWARD THE LOGAR ROAD VIA BLUE MOSQUE STREET. AT 0530 TWO SOVIET TRUCK CONVOYS (VEHICLE ID NUMBERS 0011 AND 0012) WERE OBSERVED STAGED NORTH ON THE SALANG ROAD. MANY OF THE VEHICLES WERE OPEN BED TRUCKS CARRYING VEHICLE WRECKAGE. AT 0545, A SOVIET FUEL CONVOY (VEHICLE ID 1032) ESCORTED BY FIVE BMP'S MOVED EAST ON PERIMETER ROAD.

-- JUNE 17: BETWEEN 1205 AND 1225, A SOVIET CONVOY RETURNED TO THE CITY ON THE LOGAR ROAD. IT INCLUDED 17 BTR'S, SIX S-62

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TANKS, 41 BMP'S, SIX ZU-23 GUN TRUCKS, FIVE TRUCKS WITH TOWED GUNS, FOUR BM-21 MULTIPLE ROCKET LAUNCHERS, 30 OIL TANKERS AND TEN ASSORTED TRUCKS.

-- JUNE 20: AT 1745, DIPLOMATS OBSERVED APPROXIMATELY 200 SOVIET ARMORED VEHICLES AND TRUCKS STAGED SOUTH NEAR THE SOUTHERN TERMINUS OF THE SALANG ROAD. AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME TIME OVER 25 BTR'S AND MLLB-TOWED D-30 GUNS HEADED WEST PERIMETER ROAD FROM JALALABAD ROAD. THE VEHICLES WERE DAMAGED AND DIRTY.

-- COMBAT IN THE PROVINCES --

6. KABUL PROVINCE (SEE PARA'S 4 AND 5 FOR KABUL CITY

----- DEVELOPMENTS:)

(A) (KABUL SOUTH:) A RELIABLE AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS THAT THE POPULATION OF KABUL'S SOUTHERN SUBURB OF RISHKOR HAS BEEN REDUCED FROM A PRE-INVASION FIGURE OF APPROXIMATELY 25,000 TO APPROXIMATELY 1,500 NOW. A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT REPORTS NIGHT-LONG FIGHTING BETWEEN MUJAHIDIN AND DRA FORCES LATE IN THE SECOND WEEK OF JUNE ON THE LOGAR ROAD AT A POINT 12 KMS SOUTH OF THE CITY. (COMMENT: THIS APPEARS TO BE THE CLOSEST FIGHTING TO THE SOUTH OF THE CITY REPORTED THUS FAR THIS SEASON. END COMMENT) ON JUNE 19 BETWEEN 2215 AND 2300 DIPLOMATS OBSERVED ARTILLERY EXPLOSIONS SOUTH OF THE CITY.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 04 OF 09 KABUL 1069

(B) (KABUL WEST:) DRA ARTILLERY AND ROCKET BOMBARDMENT OF THE PAGHMAN AREA NOTED PARA 6 REFTEL CONTINUED, JUNE 15. ON JUNE 19 DIPLOMATS OBSERVED DRA MILITARY UNITS, COMPRISING 3M-21 MULTIPLE ROCKET LAUNCHERS, T-55 TANKS, 100 MM GUNS AND 9TR'S IN POSITIONS IMMEDIATELY SOUTH OF KARGHA LAKE. DRA MILITARY IDENTIFIED THE UNIT AS SAPANDOI AND EXPLAINED THAT "KHAD" (MINISTRY OF STATE SECURITY) UNITS WERE POSITIONED ON THE PLAINS TO THE WEST OF KARGHE WHILE SOVIET ARTILLERY WAS SET UP IN SHAKADARA TO THE NORTH. ARTILLERY HEARD TO THE WEST FROM KABUL MOST NIGHTS DURING THE WEEK INDICATED CONTINUATION OF THE WEEK-LONG BOMBARDMENT OF THE PAGHMAN AREA. ALSO ON JUNE 19 DIPLOMATS REPORT HEARING INTERMITTENT ARTILLERY TO THE SOUTH OF KARGHA (ARGANJEN AREA) FROM 0730 TO 1000.

(C) (KABUL NORTH:) A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT REPORTS ARTILLERY, POSSIBLY SOVIET, ON JUNE 12 MISTAKENLY SHELLED A DRA POSITION IN THE SHAKADARA AREA KILLING 9 DRA TROOPS, INCLUDING EITHER A MAJOR OR A COLONEL.

7. KANDAHAR:

FIGHTING IN THE KANDAHAR AREA CONTINUES TO BE THE MOST INTENSE IN COUNTRY. THE MONTH-LONG SOVIET-DRA CAMPAIGN TO FORCE MUJAHIDIN TO ABANDON THE AREAS SURROUNDING WHAT WAS AFGHANISTAN'S SECOND LARGEST CITY AND TO ESTABLISH CONTROL OF THE CITY ITSELF APPEARS TO BE MAKING LITTLE PROGRESS AFTER NEARLY COLLAPSING BECAUSE OF THE DEFECTION OF LARGE NUMBERS OF DRA TROOPS EARLY IN JUNE. DEFENSE MINISTER RAFIE REPORTEDLY VISITED THE AREA JUNE 15 OR 16. CIVILIAN LOSSES ALONG WITH SOVIET/DRA AND MUJAHIDIN LOSSES ARE HIGH.

(A) (LOSSES:) A KANDAHAR RESIDENT CLAIMS MUJAHIDIN CASUALTIES, POSSIBLY AS HIGH AS 1,000 ARE ONLY ONE THIRD OF SOVIET/DRA CASUALTIES. MANY OF THE REGIME CASUALTIES HAVE BEEN FLOWN TO KABUL: ON JUNE 15, A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT REPORTS 20 DRA OFFICERS' REMAINS AND 30 WOUNDED WERE BROUGHT TO KABUL'S WAZIR AKRAR KHAN HOSPITAL. BODIES OF FOUR SENIOR DRA OFFICERS ARRIVED IN KABUL JUNE 17. ON JUNE 17-18 DRA TROOPS REPORTEDLY MUTINIED, KILLED AN OFFICER AND JOINED THE MUJAHIDIN. THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED BY ONE OTHER OFFICER. MUJAHIDIN, EARLY IN THE FIGHTING, ACCORDING TO A KANDAHARI, SUFFERED MANY CASUALTIES WHEN THE POSITIONS ENCIRCLING THE CITY WERE SURROUNDED BY SOVIET FORCES WHO TRAPPED THEM BRIEFLY IN A CROSS FIRE.

(B) (REGIME MANPOWER SHORTAGES:) IN HIS PLENARY ADDRESS JUNE 10, NAJIB ACKNOWLEDGED THAT 92 PERCENT OF DRA'S FIGHTING MEN RECENTLY HAD BEEN DRAWN FROM THE KABUL POPULATION. MANY OF THESE IN TURN HAVE BEEN SENT TO KANDAHAR. IN RECENT WEEKS, PRESS GANGS TARGETING EVEN PRE-DRAFT AGE YOUTH HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN KABUL. VICTIMS OF THE PRESS GANGS ARE KEPT IN HOLDING AREAS IN HUSAIN KOT (NORTH OF KABUL), RISHKOR (SOUTH OF KABUL), IN DARULAMAN, OR AT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR (SAPANDOI TROOPS)

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FOR SEVERAL DAYS AND THEN FLOWN, USUALLY AT NIGHT, TO KANDAHAR WITHOUT BENEFIT OF TRAINING. THEY ARE THEN PUT IN COMBAT. PARENTS OF THESE YOUTHS (SOURCE FOR MUCH OF THE ABOVE) REPORT THAT MANY YOUNG MEN ARE FLEEING TO PAKISTAN, TO PAGHMAN OR THE SHAKADARA AREA TO LINK UP WITH MUJAHIDIN. ANOTHER YOUTH TOLD HIS FATHER HE WOULD LOOK FOR AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO DESERT TO THE MUJAHIDIN ONCE HE REACHED KANDAHAR. PARENTS REPORT MUJAHIDIN ARE ENCOURAGING DESERTION BY IMMEDIATELY MOVING DESERTERS TO TRAINING AREAS AWAY FROM THE FIGHTING, REFLECTING THE SERIOUSNESS OF REGIME MILITARY MANPOWER SHORTAGES. AN AFGHAN REPORTS THE REGIME ON JUNE 14 SENT 700 SARANDOI TROOPS FROM KABUL TO KANDAHAR. (COMMENT: SRANDOI ARE NOT USUALLY EMPLOYED IN FRONT-LINE COMBAT. END COMMENT.) AMONG THE 700 WERE 30 ORDINARY TRAFFIC POLICE. THE REGIME REPORTEDLY HAS PLANS SOON TO SEND POPA CADRE TO KANDAHAR AS TROOPS.

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FM AMEMBASSY KARUL

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(C) (SOVIET TACTICS:) ACCORDING TO RESIDENTS OF KANDAHAR, SOVIET FORCES ARE CONDUCTING DAY AND NIGHTTIME AIR AND ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENT IN THE AREA, FIRING INDISCRIMINATELY INTO KANDAHAR'S SUBURBS. CIVILIAN CASUALTIES REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN VERY HIGH. AN AFGHAN REPORT CLAIMS THAT 20 CIVILIANS WERE KILLED IN SUCH STRIKE THE MALAJAT AREA DURING THE SECOND WEEK OF JUNE. OBSERVERS FROM KANDAHAR SPECULATE THAT THE SOVIETS USE OF HIGH ALTITUDE BOMBING, WITH RELATIVELY GOOD RESULTS SUGGESTS USE OF ELECTRONIC MEASURES TO IMPROVE BOMBING ACCURACY. NEAR CONSTANT NIGHTTIME BOMBING ALSO HAS LED TO SPECULATION THE SOVIET AIRCRAFT MAY BE EQUIPPED WITH NIGHTTIME BOMBING AIDS. A KANDAHARI CLAIMS THAT NEW SOVIET AIRCRAFT ARRIVED IN THE KANDAHAR AREA FROM THE SOVIET UNION VIA THE WEST JUST BEFORE THE LAUNCHING OF THE KANDAHAR CAMPAIGN IN LATE MAY.

(D) (SPECIFIC BATTLE INFORMATION:) ACCORDING TO KANDAHAR SOURCES, MUJAHIDIN FORCES OVERRAN TWO DRA POSTS AT DURAHA NEAR KANDAHAR IN MAY 21-23 OPERATIONS. ON MAY 23, SOVIET BOMBARDMENT OF THE ARGANDAB-MALAJAT AREA COMMENCED. ON JUNE 10, MUJAHIDIN HIT A SOVIET CONVOY AT SARKO KILLING TWO AND WOUNDING TEN SOVIET TROOPS.

(E) (CONDITIONS IN KANDAHAR:) SIEGE-LIKE CONDITIONS REPORTEDLY PREVAIL IN KANDAHAR. BECAUSE OF THE FIGHTING IN THE NEARBY RURAL AREAS, THE FLOW OF FOOD INTO THE CITY HAS STOPPED WITH VEGETABLES AND FRUITS IN PARTICULARLY SHORT SUPPLY. MEAT IS RATIONED WITH PURCHASES POSSIBLE THREE DAYS PER WEEK. MANY KANDAHARIS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED FOR COLLABORATION WITH MUJAHIDIN. FIGHTING HAS ALSO AFFECTED SECURITY IN THE CITY ITSELF: IN ADDITION TO NIGHTLY MUJAHIDIN ROCKETING OF GOVERNMENT POSITIONS IN AND NEAR THE CITY, SOVIET ARTILLERY ACCIDENTLY STRUCK "STREET NUMBER 4" NEAR THE INDIAN CONSULATE JUNE 7, KILLING EIGHT CIVILIANS. ONE JUNE 5 A SOVIET MIG, TRAILING SMOKE, CRASHED INTO THE CITY. (NUMBER OF CASUALTIES IS UNKNOWN). RESIDENTS CLAIM KANDAHAR, AND ITS FAMOUS GARDENS AND VINYARDS WILL REQUIRE EXTENSIVE RECONSTRUCTION. THE KABUL-KANDAHAR CIVILIAN AIR LINK, WHICH HAD NOT FUNCTIONED SINCE JUNE 3, REOPENED WITH A FLIGHT ON JUNE 19.

8. TAKHAR:

A REPORT CONTENDS THAT MUJAHIDIN DOWNED A "TRANSPORT HELICOPTER" PRESUMABLY EITHER A DRA MI-8 OR POSSIBLY AN MI-6 IN TAKHAR RECENTLY.

9. BALKH:

VARIOUS RELIABLE AFGHAN AND DIPLOMATIC SOURCES CLAIM THAT MUJAHIDIN ON JUNE 15 (POSSIBLY JUNE 14) SHOT DOWN AN AN-26 NEAR HAZAR-I-SHARIF. THE MILITARY TRANSPORT WAS CARRYING 43 PASSENGERS. (PRIMARILY MILITARY) AND CREW ALL OF WHOM PERISHED IN THE CRASH. A RELIABLE AFGHAN ACCOUNT CLAIMS THAT THE DRA

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MED INITIALLY WERE DIRECTED TO ANNOUNCE THE INCIDENT IN MUCH THE SAME MANNER AS THE JUNE 11 ZABOL AN-26 DOWNING BUT THAT COULD HAVE ABOUT GENERATING TOO MUCH ALARM AMONG AN-26 PASSENGERS AND CREW CAUSED CANCELLATION OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT AT THE LAST MINUTE. A SEPARATE SOURCE CLAIMS THAT MUJAHIDIN ALSO DOWNED TWO HELICOPTERS IN THE MAZAR-I-SHARIF AREA DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF JUNE. A RESIDENT OF TASHKURGHAN (36°42'N 67°41'E) A DISTRICT CENTER ONE HOUR DRIVE SOUTH OF MAZAR-I-SHARIF ON THE KABUL (SALANG) ROAD REPORTS THAT THE AREA IS CONTROLLED BY MUJAHIDIN "DAY AND NIGHT." A SMALL DRA OFFICE IS IN THE DISTRICT CENTER, BUT DRA BUREAUCRATS MANNING THE WELL-DEFENDED POST DO NOT VENTURE TO THE LOCAL BAZAAR BUT HAVE FOOD SENT TO THEIR COMPOUND. THREE MUJAHIDIN GROUPS ARE PROMINENT IN THE AREA: JAMIAT I ISLAMI (THE STRONGEST), HARIKAT (NUMBER TWO) AND HEZBI ISLAMI (NUMBER THREE). WHILE RELATIONS AMONG THE GROUPS ARE COOL THERE IS NO FIGHTING. THE STRONGEST LOCAL COMMANDER IS HAMIDULLAH SAID BASHEE, WHO IS AFFILIATED WITH MASJUD.

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10. NANGARHAR:

A JALALABAD RESIDENT CLAIMS THAT FIGHTING AROUND THE CITY INCREASED DURING MID-JUNE.

11. HERAT:

AN AFGHAN WITH CLOSE TIES TO HERAT CLAIMED THAT FIGHTING IN THE HERAT AREA ALSO IS INCREASING WITH GROWING MUJAHIDIN PRESSURE ON THE CITY'S DEFENSE RINGS.

12. GHAZNI:

A REGULAR AFGHAN SOURCE WITH A RECORD OF REPORTING ACCURACY CLAIMS THAT THE MUJAHIDIN ON JUNE 17 OVERRAN A DRA POST AT GHOGI QARIABAGH, WEST OF GHAZNI CITY. A NEW AFGHAN SOURCE CLAIMS THAT ON JUNE 14 MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED A DRA UNIT SOUTH OF GHAZNI CITY ON THE ROAD TO KANDAHAR KILLING MANY DRA TROOPS AND A DRA COLONEL NAMED MOHAMMAD KARIM.

13. KABUL:

THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SURFACED REGARDING THE JUNE 11 CRASH OF AN AN-26 MILITARY TRANSPORT IN SHAJOU I DISTRICT. A SOURCE, WE REGARD AS RELIABLE, CONTENDS THAT THE AIRCRAFT WAS HIT BY A MISSILE. IT RADIOED ITS SITUATION TO KANDAHAR AIRPORT AND WAS INSTRUCTED TO TRY TO RETURN. SINCE IT WAS UNABLE TO DO SO, IT ATTEMPTED AN EMERGENCY LANDING. THE PLANE CRASHED KILLING 53 OF THE 55 PASSENGERS AND CREW. INCLUDED AMONG THOSE KILLED WERE SEVERAL DRA MILITARY OFFICERS. ONE SURVIVOR DIED SON AFTER THE (#) A PILOT NAMED KPALID MOHAMMAD, REPORTEDLY SURVIVED WITH MULTIPLE INJURIES. AS NOTED REFTEL, THE PLANE WAS OVERLOADED (POSSIBLY FLYING LOW) WAS NOT FLYING THE NORMAL FLIGHT PATH FLOWN BY CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT, BORE MILITARY MARKINGS AND WAS NOT ON ANY KNOWN CIVILIAN SCHEDULE FROM KANDAHAR. (THERE WERE NO CIVILIAN FLIGHTS BETWEEN KABUL AND KANDAHAR FROM JUNE 3 TO JUNE 19.)

14. BAMIAN:

AN AFGHAN RESIDENT OF BAMIAN RECENTLY TOLD A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT THAT TRAVEL FROM THAT CITY TO HARIKAR, FORMERLY A FIVE-HOUR JOURNEY NOW REQUIRES TWO DAYS. HE SAID THAT TRAVEL ON THE ROAD IS UNDERTAKEN BY NIGHT BECAUSE THE ROAD IS TOTALLY MUJAHIDIN CONTROLLED AND SOVIET/DRA AIRCRAFT WHICH PATROL THE ROAD DURING THE DAY CONSIDER ANY TRAFFIC ON THE ROAD AS MUJAHIDIN AND ATTACK IT. EVEN BUSES REPORTEDLY TRAVEL THE ROAD ONLY AT NIGHT.

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A. IABLE AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS THAT MUJAHIDIN DESTROYED TWO
DR: JSTS NEAR SANGLAKH (33°32'N 68°40'E) ON JUNE 18.

16. PAKTIKA:

A FREQUENT AFGHAN SOURCE CLAIMS THAT ON JUNE 14 MUJAHIDIN
ATTACKED A SOVIET CONVOY NEAR ORGUN (32°57'N 69°11'E) DESTROYING
TWO ARMED VEHICLES AND SEIZING ONE TRUCK. MUJAHIDIN SUFFERED
TWO WOUNDED. SOVIET CASUALTIES ARE UNKNOWN.

17. PARWANIS

AN AFGHAN SOURCE WHO HAS REPORED RELIABLY ON DEVELOPMENTS ON
THE SALANG ROAD CLAIMS THAT MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED SOVIET/DRA
FORCES NEAR JABA OS SARAJ JUNE 16-17. THE FIGHTING WHICH
SPILLED ONTO THE SALANG ROAD BLOCKED TRAFFIC FOR ONE DAY.

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18. PAKTIA:

AFGHAN SOURCES HAVE TOLD A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT THAT RECENTLY A 1500-MAN DRA UNIT WAS BESIEGED FOR NINE DAYS BY MUJAHIDIN AT JAJI MEYDAN (33°37'N 70°10'E). (COMMENT: IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER THIS SIEGE CONTINUES. TWO OTHER SIMILAR SIZED DRA UNITS WERE UNDER SIEGE AT JAJI (ALI KHEL) TO THE NORTHWEST IN PAKTIA IN LATE-MAY, EARLY-JUNE FIGHTING. REFTEL).

19. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS:

(A) (REGIME CONTROL OF POPULATION:) NAJIB'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT IN HIS JUNE 10 PLENUM ADDRESS THAT 92 PERCENT OF THE REGIME'S MILITARY PERSONNEL "OVER THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS" HAVE BEEN DRAWN FROM KABUL POINTS UP THE REGIME'S LIMITED CONTROL OF POPULATION OUTSIDE OF KABUL. IT ALSO ACCENTUATES THE IMPACT IN THE KABUL AREA OF THE HIGH LOSSES RECENTLY SUFFERED BY THE REGIME IN KANDAHAR AND PAKTIA.

(B) (NEW SOVIET EQUIPMENT:) OBSERVERS RECENTLY NOTED NEW SOVIET EQUIPMENT (NOT NEW MODELS) NOTABLY VEHICLES BUT ALSO HELICOPTERS IN THE KABUL AREA. ANALYSTS HERE ASSESS THAT GIVEN THE LEAD-TIME REQUIRED TO PROCURE AND SEND NEW EQUIPMENT TO AFGHANISTAN, THE DECISION TO UPGRADE EQUIPMENT IN AFGHANISTAN MUST HAVE BEEN MADE AS MOSCOW WAS UNDERSCORING ITS PURPORTED INTENTIONS TO WITHDRAW.

(C) (ROAD SECURITY:) THE SALANG ROAD, WHICH SAW HEAVY FIGHTING THAT BLOCKED TRAFFIC FOR NEARLY ONE WEEK IN THE FIRST HALF OF JUNE, DURING THE THIRD WEEK SAW LESS MUJAHIDIN ACTIVITY EXCEPT FOR FIGHTING AT JABAL OS SARAJ) ACCORDING TO A SOURCE WHO TRAVELS THE ROAD FREQUENTLY, SOME STRETCHES ARE PERMANENT HOT SPOTS WITH MUJAHIDIN SNIPER FIRE AT A MINIMUM, TARGETTED AGAINST ALL CONVOYS. ONE SUCH LOCATION DESCRIBED BY THE SOURCE IS KOTALI RORTAK NORTH OF THE SALANG TUNNEL IN TERRITORY CONTROLLED BY MASOUD.

20. POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

(A) (ANGOLAN DELEGATION ARRIVES:) ON JUNE 19 A DELEGATION LED BY KUNDY PAHYAMA, MEMBER OF THE MPLA CENTRAL COMMITTEE POLITBURO AND A MINISTER OF STATE ARRIVED IN KABUL.

(B) (KARMAL'S BAG MAN:) AN AFGHAN REPORTS THAT HAJI MOHAMMAD, BABRAK KARMAL'S BROTHER-IN-LAW WHO SERVED AS HIS PERSONAL FINANCIER AMASSED A 20 MILLION DOLLAR FORTUNE FOR KARMAL, MOSTLY THROUGH CURRENCY MANIPULATION, BEFORE KARMAL'S OUSTER. MOHAMMAD'S WHEREABOUTS NO 87--KNOWN. AN AFGHAN FAMILIAR WITH ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN KABUL ASSERTS THAT CURRENCY MANIPULATION (W/ONGNWITH DRUGS) PSIONE MEUFS BY WYICH FORTUNE HAVE BEEN MADE UNDER TTEREGIME.

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(C) (KHALQ UNITY:) KNOWLEDGEABLE OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT THE KHALQ FACTION, AFTER SOME DISSENSION CREATED BY THE RELEASE FROM PRISON OF FORMER AMIN MINISTERS, IS AGAIN UNITED BEHIND THE LEADERSHIP OF MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR GULABZOI, RECENTLY PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF FULL POLITBURO MEMBER. ALLEGEDLY, NAJIB HAD SOUGHT TO WEAKEN HIS RIVAL-IN-THE-WINGS GULABZOI BY RELEASING FORMER CRONIES OF AMIN WHOM GULABZOI (AND SEVERAL OTHER PROMINENT BREAKWAY KHALQIS) HAD TRIED TO OVERTHROW. NAJIB'S PLAN APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL.

21. HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS:

ACCORDING TO WELL-INFORMED DIPLOMATS IN KARUL, THE ICRC PRISONER PROECTIO TEAM HAS BEEN REDUCED TO ONE MAN FOLLOWING THE APPARENT BREAKDOWN OS TALKS BETWEEN ICRC AND THE REGIME ABOUT MODALITIES FOR ICRC'S VISITS TO PRISONERS. DIPLOMATS OBSERVED PRESS GANG OPERATIONS NEAR SHARE NAU PARKSAND (DURING THE AFTERNOON) ON ZARGHUNA MEYDAN.

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RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6652

INFO RUEHUU/AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 1748

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22. SOVIETIZATION:

REFTEL REPORTED ON ACTIVITIES OF THE "PIONEERS ORGANIZATION" IN AFGHANISTAN, AN ORGANIZATION FOR YOUTH MODELED ON THE SOVIET ORGANIZATION OF THE SAME NAME. THE REGIME CLAIMS THAT APPROXIMATELY 150,000 (VICE 1,500 REFTEL) AFGHAN YOUTHS (8-13 YEARS) ARE MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION. IN RECENT YEARS THE ORGANIZATION SENT BETWEEN 1,200 AND 1,500 YOUTHS TO THE SOVIET UNION FOR VARYING PERIODS.

22. KABUL MEDIA:

(A) ("JUNE" PLENUM:) FOLLOWING THE PLENUM HIGH RANKING PARTY OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN SPEAKING TO MEETINGS THROUGHOUT THE CAPITAL AND ELSEWHERE EXPLAINING THE DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE PLENUM. CONTRARY TO PRESS REPORTS APPARENTLY BASED ON TASS DESPATCHES, NAJIB DID NOT BREAK ANY NEW GROUND IN HIS REPORT TO THE PLENUM CONCERNING EITHER A COALITION GOVERNMENT OR A WILLINGNESS TO OPEN TALKS WITH FORMER KING ZAHIR AND HIS SUPPORTERS. NOOR AHMAD NOOR, ANOTHER POLITBURO MEMBER, AT ONE SESSION REPORTEDLY RULED OUT ANY POSSIBILITY OF A COALITION GOVERNMENT WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PDPA. IN THE SUMMARY OF NAJIB'S REPORT TO THE PLENUM WHICH WAS CARRIED IN KABUL PRINT MEDIA, NAJIB DEALT AT LENGTH WITH THE CONTINUING PROBLEMS OF LACK OF PARTY DISCIPLINE AND CALLED FOR ADDITIONAL EXPULSIONS FROM THE PARTY OF PERSONS BENT ON SABOTAGING NATIONAL RECONCILIATION (KABUL 1033 NOTAL CONTAINS MORE DETAILED REPORTING OF NAJIB'S SPEECH.)

(B) (KAWYANI LEAVES FOR SOUTH YEMEN:) NAJMUDDIN KAWYANI, NEWLY APPOINTED ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE PDPA POLITBURO AND HEAD OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT OF THE PDPA CC DEPARTED ON JUNE 15 FOR A VISIT TO SOUTH YEMEN. AMONG THOSE SEEING HIM OFF AT THE AIRPORT WAS THE INDIAN AMBASSADOR.

(C) (NAJIB'S WIFE APPEARS ON TV:) KABUL TV REPORTED THE CONDOLENCE VISIT BY NAJIB TO THE FAMILY OF GENERAL ABUL QAYUM SEDIQ MURDERED THE PREVIOUS WEEK IN KANDAHAR (PARA 25 (B), REFTEL). A WOMAN ACCOMPANIED NAJIB WEARING MODEST CLOTHES WITH HER HEAD COVERED BY A WHITE MORNING SCARF WAS, ACCORDING TO SEVERAL AFGHANS, NAJIB'S WIFE. ACCORDING TO INFORMED AFGHANS SHE, UNLIKE BABRAK'S WIFE HAS RARELY IF EVER APPEARED IN PUBLIC OR IN THE MEDIA.

(D) (NAJIB VISITS BALKH PROVINCE:) KABUL TV REPORTED ON JUNE 20 THAT NAJIB MADE A BRIEF VISIT TO MAZAR SHARIN AND HAIRATAN IN BALKH PROVINCE. VISIBLE IN THE VIDEO REPORT OF HIS VISIT WERE HIS ARMED SOVIET BODYGUARDS.

(E) (NONALIGNED JOURNALISTS TO KABUL:) THE DRA SHORTLY WILL HOST NON-ALLIGNED JOURNALISTS. THE DRA INTENDS TO CONDUCT A PRESS TOUR TO THE SITE OF THE JUNE 11 AN-26 CRASH.

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(F) (SOVIETS REAFFIRM PDPA MUST RETAIN PRE-EMINENT ROLE:) A
BROADCAST BY MOSCOW RADIO JUNE 20 COMMENTING ON THE SITUATION IN
AFGHANISTAN AND THE PDPA IN PARTICULARLY STATED: "...THEY (THE
PDPA) ARE READY TO SHARE POWER WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OTHER
SIDE. THIS DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT THE RULING PDPA WILL
LOSE ITS POSITION AND IMAGE. IT WILL REMAIN THE CHIEF
MOBILIZING AND DIRECTING FORCE IN THE GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL
UNITY, EVEN AFTER IT BECOMES A COALITION."

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RUOHAA3/CORUSAITAC ARLINGTON HALL STATION VA
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RUCLAKA/FT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SR
RUHQHQA/CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
RUFDAAA/CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE
RHFQAAA/HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE
RHFQAAA/HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO
RUDORRA/USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//
RUCJACC/USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-IOM//
RUEOLEA/DEFENSE COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT GROUP
RUCLFNA/347 TFW MOODY AFB GA//IN//
RUFNSHH/USJOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
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23. NOT TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS:

(A) (INDIAN TRADE EXHIBITION:) KABUL PRINT MEDIA CONTINUE TO CARRY FULL PAGE ADVERTISEMENTS FOR THE FIRST INDIAN TRADE FAIR IN KABUL WHICH RUNS JUNE 18-27. INDIAN MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMERCE MOHAMMED YUNUS INDICATED THAT THE FAIR HAD MORE THAN COMMERCIAL OBJECTIVES. HE EXPLAINED THAT "SETTING UP OF SUCH EXHIBITIONS AND EXPANSION OF OUR TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS WOULD LAY MORE GROUND FOR THE BROADENING AND DEEPENING OF THE COOPERATION AND RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES." THE EXHIBITION COMPRISES MANY GOODS UNSUITED TO THE KABUL MARKET (LARGE AGRICULTURAL TRACTORS) AND OTHER ITEMS WHICH WOULD POSE PROBLEMS FOR TRANSPORT AND DELIVERY SUCH AS AUTOMOBILES AND OTHER BULKY ITEMS NOT LIKELY TO BE ALLOWED TO TRANSIT PAKISTAN.

(B) (ALLEGED SOVIET USE OF LETHAL CHEMICAL WEAPONS:) AN ISLAMIC DIPLOMAT CITING AFGHAN SOURCES, CLAIMS THAT SOVIET FORCES USED LETHAL CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN CAVE AREAS IN JUNE FIGHTING IN PAKTIA. A SEPARATE RELIABLE AND KNOWLEDGEABLE DIPLOMAT STATES THAT SOME OF THE CASUALTIES FROM THE FIGHTING ARE ARRIVING AT MEDICAL FACILITIES IN PAKISTAN WITH SEVERE BURNS, POSSIBLY FROM A "NAPALM-LIKE SUBSTANCE."

(C) (SOVIET-DRA INVOLVEMENT WITH BALUCHIS:) KNOWLEDGEABLE DIPLOMATS REPORT ATSSINCEHTPE VIST ON THE PROMINENT BALKCH ATTULLAH MAGAW TO KABUL FROM LONDON IN MARCH. BALUCHI ACTIVITY IN KABUL HAS INCREASED WITH NEW BALUCHIS POSSIBLY FROM IRAN JOINING LONG-TIME PAKISTANI-BALUCHIS. A NEW BALUCHI RESIDENCE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN A "KHAD" HOUSE IN WAZIR AKBAR KHAN. THERE IS ALSO SPECULATION THAT SINDIS FROM PAKISTAN ALSO ARE IN KABUL IN GROWING NUMBERS. INFORMED DIPLOMATS CLAIM THAT PAKISTANI BALUCHIS WHO HAD LONG BEEN IN TRAINING CAMPS NEAR LASHKAGAR RECENTLY HAVE BEEN MOVED TO CAMPS IN ZABOL PROVINCE AND ELSEWHERE IN HELMAND. THERE IS ALSO EVIDENCE OF RECENT CONTACT BETWEEN BALUCHIS AND IRAQI DIPLOMATS IN KABUL.

(D) (FRENCH SEE PROBLEMS IN AFGHAN INTERIOR:) FRENCH MEDICAL PERSONNEL, ACCORDING TO THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN ISLAMABAD, REPORT GROWING PROBLEMS OF MOVEMENT WITHIN AFGHANISTAN RESULTING FROM INCREASED USE OF SOVIET HELICOPTERS ALONG KEY ROUTES. THE PERSONNEL CLAIM THAT SOVIETS ARE INTRODUCING MUCH NEW EQUIPMENT INTO AFGHANISTAN. THE FRENCH CLAIM THAT MOVEMENT PROBLEMS ARE SOMEWHAT ALLEVIATED BY GROWING NUMBERS OF MUJAHIDIN AIRCRAFT DOWNINGS. QUOTING THE PAKISTANI ARMY CHIEF, THE FRENCH EMBASSY CLAIMS 52 AIRCRAFT DOWNED FROM MAY 10 TO JUNE 10.

(E) (DRA SEEKS IMPROVED RELATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA:) THE DRA HAS INSTRUCTED ITS AMBASSADOR IN CURA (SARBELAND) TO SEEK IMPROVED DIPLOMATIC CONTACT AND POSSIBLY RELATIONS WITH SEVERAL LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, SPECIFICALLY INCLUDING MEXICO AND ARGENTINA.

(F) (DRA MINISTER CONTACTS ZAHIR SHAH:) SEPARATE RELIABLE
SOURCES CLAIM THAT MINISTER ADVISOR PAZHWAJ, ONE OF FIVE
FORMER AFGHAN MINISTERS NOW SERVING THE DRA, RECENTLY VISITED
THE ZAHIR SHAH IN ROME. THE FORMER KING REPORTEDLY REJECTED
PARTICIPATION IN THE DRA "NATIONAL RECONCILIATION" PROGRAM
AND REFUSED TO CONSENT TO A DIALOGUE WITH THE REGIME. PAZHWAJ
NOW INTENDS TO VISIT THE U.S. PERHAPS TO PRESS HIS APPEAL
FOR COOPERATION UNDER "NR" AMONG PROMINENT AFGHANS THERE.

24. MOSCOW MIIMIZE CONSIDERED. MCWILLIAMS

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